

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET  
13 September 1995  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 6 June 1996**

1. **SITE NAME:** Pierce Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range

**SITE NUMBER:** B07NE006300

**LOCATION:**

City: Pierce  
County: Pierce  
State: Nebraska

**PROJECT NUMBER:** B07NE006301

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 4

**ASR RAC:** 3

2. **POC'S:**

**TECHNICAL MANAGER:**

Name: Karl Blankinship  
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**GEO DISTRICT POC:**

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**GEO DIVISION POC:**

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**HEADQUARTERS POC:**

Name: Sara Goodwin  
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**SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:**

Name: Ted Moore  
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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Pierce Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Pierce, Nebraska (population: 1,615) in Pierce County, Nebraska. The site consisted of 7,480 acres and was approximately 2 miles wide by 6 miles long. The site is primarily gently rolling grassland that is used for cattle grazing. A small portion of the site is used for crop

farming. The grass cover on the site is very dense. The weather in Pierce County is widely variable on a day-by-day basis and the area is subject to strong and persistent winds with winds of 40 to 50 miles per hour common.

Air photos, interviews, and the site inspection indicate there was a bombing target located about two miles from the east end of the range. The site inspection team found a few pieces of practice bomb debris scattered within the still-visible aiming circles which marked the target.

The site team also found a live .50 cal. round and 10 empty .50 cal. casings along a portion of the south flight path. In 1993, a local resident found a belt of live .50 cal. ammunition just outside the site boundary. It is likely that live ammunition is scattered over the entire site and on the surrounding property.

**4. SITE HISTORY:** The War Department acquired 7,040 acres on November 6, 1943 for use as a gunnery range for Scribner Satellite Airfield. The size of the range eventually grew to roughly two miles by six miles. The range was also used in support of Fairmont AAF and became known as Fairmont Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range. The range was formerly maintained by Rapid City Army Air Base. Improvements to the range included an observation tower, generator, observation room, gunnery targets, and a bombing target marked by aiming circles. The Second Air force planned the construction of ten Japanese Zero silhouette targets on the Pierce range for Scribner. The 15th Bombardment Air Inspector at Pierce requested the construction of Type "C" rifle targets for use of pursuit aircraft of the 36th Fighter Group. The site was reported surplus in 1946.

Records show that 1,760 acres of the former Fairmont Gunnery Range which was classified as agricultural land was decontaminated July 18, 1946. It is not known if the remainder of the range was decontaminated.

## **5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

### **Pierce Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range**

Size, Acres:	7,480
Former Use:	gunnery practice
Present Use:	cattle grazing and crop farming
Probable End Use:	same as present
Ordnance Potential:	confirmed
Type:	practice bomb debris and complete .50 caliber ammunition

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archive Search Report was completed in September 1995.

**7. STRATEGY:** EE/CA

## 8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

There are all-weather gravel roads that provide access to the site, but access within the site requires a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Property owners may be reluctant to allow access. At least one owner denied the site inspection team entry as she did not want “anyone snooping around on [her] property.”

There are two known State-listed species occurring in vicinity of the **Pierce Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range** and several Federally-listed species known to occur in Pierce County, Nebraska. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

The 2nd Air Force standard plan for air-to-ground gunnery ranges showed parallel flight paths about 1/8 mile inside the long boundaries of the range.

## 9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

## 10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only